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ABSTRACT

Intended to provide the reader with information concerning the development and early heritage of a secondary vocational agriculture program, this historical account of the development of an Ohio vocational agriculture program is intended also to be useful as a prototype for other communities who wish to make a similar report of their programs. After a brief introduction relating the early activities of vocational agriculture beginning with the impact of the Smith-Hughes Act (1918), the author first discusses the actual development of the vocational agriculture program at Hilliard High School and its major components. Next, four decades of development are presented by focusing on the following themes: "The Thirties--Impact of the Depression"; "The Forties--Helping in the War Years"; "Adjusting to a Population Explosion in the Fifties"; and "The Sixties--The Effect of Community Change." Finally the program outcomes are discussed in retrospect. Various records and reports which span the program's fifty-three years of operation are included in the appendix. (BM)

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
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Foreword

As we celebrated the nation's 200th birthday, many comparisons were made between then and now. One of the greatest changes in that period of time occurred in the amount and quality of education of our citizens. Truly spectacular changes have occurred in public education. In this community the one-room school provided most of the education for our children at the beginning of this century.

All through the years public education has improved, developed and contributed to society because some people have said "We need to improve this," or "We can do this better," or "We should try this." Public education has likewise had a majority of voters who have said "This may cost more but it's worth it." The Scioto-Darby School System has had this kind of support and this kind of a history.

As we move ahead facing new problems and challenges in our schools it behooves us to build on a solid foundation of past experience. We need to know how our schools evolved and what helped them to grow in success and capability.

It is for this purpose that we publish this brief history of the Vocational Agriculture program in our school. This program was an innovation fifty-three years ago when it began. It proved its value and earned the support of the community during a time when it was most needed. We believe we can learn from a review of this program and we hope that this history may serve as an example for similar histories which may be written for other parts of the school program.

Our deepest appreciation to Dr. Ralph Woodin - educator, schoolar, historian and caring person - for the research and total preparation of this historical gem. Dr. Woodin's efforts in all areas of historical preservation are well known throughout the Northwest Franklin County Area. Dr. Woodin's dedication and service will endure along with his scholarly works.

Special "Thank Yous" to those people listed below who assisted and who gave so generously toward the preparation of this history.

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April 1, 1978

Preface

The Vocational Agriculture Department of Hilliard High School had been closed for five years when a request came from the Hilliard Junior High School History Club for some information about an F.F.A. scrapbook which had been found in a storage closet back of the music room, along with some old pictures and assorted pieces of junk. History Club members were trying to learn how their school had developed and what the school had been like in its early days. Unfortunately, their teachers could offer little direct help. All of this prompted Assistant Principal Nancie Shillington to help the students find out more of the school's early history.

At about this same time, William Harsh, a teacher of industrial arts located several boxes of banners and trophies which had belonged to the Vocational Agriculture Department. He asked for help in deciding what to do with them. As a former teacher of agriculture at Hilliard, and a member of the Northwest Franklin County Historical Society, I was asked to help in developing a history of the Vocational Agriculture program as well as to identify some of the more significant physical mementos of the program.

A search for records of the department resulted in locating only about 100 photographs, two F.F.A. scrapbooks and forming program reports for but five of the 55 years. This was ironic in that each year four to six rather complete reports of the program were made to the State Department of Education and copies had been filed in the agriculture classroom. Apparently, when the program was terminated all records were destroyed. The only remaining source of historical information seemed to be from those involved in the program.

I hope that those whose names or contributions to the program were omitted will forgive those of us who had to rely on memories of people and events which go back a long way.

The efforts of several former Vocational Agriculture teachers were enlisted. They were asked to provide a statement of events and activities during their tenure. These teachers included C. F. Flickinger, Austin E. Ritchie, Leon W. Boucher and Keith Brum. After their reports were assembled the writer added his own information and records.

The history was then read by a number of former students, parents and school board members. This group included Helen and Robert King, Ruth and Ned Woodruff and Betty and Paul Pence, Jr. Their comments were added and the document was supplemented with selected materials furnished by former students and other teachers.

A recommendation was presented to the Scioto-Darby Board of Education in October of 1977, regarding the history of the department. The Board approved the recommendations which called for:

1. The permanent storage of major banners and trophies of the Vocational Agriculture Department and their use for historical exhibits when appropriate.

2. The publishing of a brief history of the Vocational Agriculture program to accompany the exhibit.

3. The presentation of certain designated trophies and banners to the Northwest Franklin County Historical Society.

4. The presentation of appropriate remaining Vocational Agriculture materials to the Central Ohio Joint Vocational School.

It is hoped that this history will provide those interested in the heritage today's schools with some understanding of one of the programs which had a strong impact on those who were enrolled and which contributed much to the development of the community and its agriculture.

It is also hoped that this history may be useful as a prototype for other communities who may wish to make a similar report of their Vocational Agriculture programs. Such a project might be an appropriate activity for some of the F.F.A. Alumni Associations which have been organized in many schools.

Ralph J. Woodin

Professor Emeritus
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VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AT HILLIARD

The First Steps

Vocational Agriculture came to the Hilliard community soon after its introduction to the nation in 1918. Congress, through its passage of the Smith-Hughes Act, had launched a movement that would provide more practical education, especially in rural areas. Federal funds initially provided half the salaries of teachers of agriculture, home economics and trades and industries.

It is not surprising that Hilliard became an early starter in Vocational Agriculture during 1919. It was rural, and the center of a rich farming area, populated by people with long traditions in agriculture, and willing to have those traditions carried forward and strengthened by their sons. Farms were medium-sized and families generally large. Popular family names at the time included Parker, Weber, Bidwell, Salzgaber, Leppert and others. Hilliard was a farm town with a stable population of 650 persons, many of whom were retired from long and successful careers in farming. Also, money for schools was scarce and this program paid half the cost of a teacher's salary.

The Vocational Agriculture program that was begun in 1919 was destined to extend for 53 years, until 1972. During that time about 1100 high school students, young farmers and adult farmers would have formally participated in the program. Because the program had a founder status in the state and nation, and a successful history, it became influential in the shaping of other programs in rural communities. It's international contacts would extend that influence to other countries as well.

It seems important that some lasting record be prepared that describes the evolution and accomplishments of the Vocational Agriculture program at Hilliard; and reflects upon the effect of time and circumstances upon that program during its 53-year history.

The Program Is Developed

Three successive teachers were instrumental in the establishment of Vocational Agriculture at Hilliard during a fifteen-year period. Harry Atwood was with the program during the first year. Succeeding him until 1922 was F. H. McMillan, who then joined the emerging state leadership staff in Ohio for Vocational Agriculture. McMillan was the proprietor of a hardware store in Hilliard for some 30 years. The third teacher, E. O. Bolender, taught from 1923-34. It was Bolender's skill as a teacher, dedication to a new and challenging task, and long tenure in the assignment that provide the impetus for the development of one of Ohio's finest programs, as he, himself, became a respected leader in the Vocational Agriculture movement.

The program was also aided by the support and encouragement of two able superintendents of the school, Mr. Stewart and Mr. M. D. Hartsook. Both of these men believed in helping students to get a useful education.

Vocational agriculture enrollment grew from around 30 in 1922 to a high of 58 in 1942, in high school classes. Bolender organized the first class of adult farmers in 1925 and such classes were offered each year for 50 years; later a young farmer class began. The total enrollment, including high school plus out-of-school classes, totaled over 100 in most years, and reached 200 persons per year during World War II

Most students took four years of vo-ag. Each class was 90 minutes long. Freshmen and sophomores were combined in one class as were juniors and seniors. Through this arrangement each student took five, one-year courses--Animal Husbandry, Farm Crops, Farm Shop, Farm Engineering and Farm Management. These course titles were similar to college offerings from which they were patterned. By 1932, however, a more student-centered curriculum was adopted based on problems of student's farming programs.

A New Kind of Instruction Emerges

Vocational Agriculture teaching became distinguished for its application of scientific principles to actual farming situations. Classroom instruction was built upon the day-to-day problems of students as they fed hogs, raised corn and performed a host of other farming activities. Timing was important, and they learned to select breeding stock in October and how to plant corn in April, close to the time that decisions were actually made and practices carried out. Farm boys liked this practical approach.

An agriculture project was required of every student in Ohio, even in 1919, but many of the early projects were too small, were not owned and managed by students and did not make much money. As a result, little real education resulted. In many cases, the farm project was a requirement to be met and it was not even related to classroom teaching. Bolender set out to improve this situation at Hilliard and soon set an example for other teachers.

Bolender made much use of his student's financial records in his teaching. He was a pioneer in this area and influenced the program of the entire state. His students kept careful records in their project books of every pound of feed, fertilizer, and other supplies used. They also charged

against the enterprise, all labor and overhead costs. When the project was completed, profits and efficiency were figured. Comparisons were then made between projects to find why profits varied. Reports on each boy's project were filed each year with the State Department of Education.

Bolender was a keen analyst of economic trends and one of the first Ohio teachers to offer an agriculture program geared to farmers' economic needs. His first students invested their own money in such then new ideas as brooder houses, hybrid seed corn and commercial fertilizers. Generally, they made money, too! In many cases, the farming operations on the home farm were changed and improved as a result of a boy's success with his hogs, chicks or corn.

Good Information Was Important to Instruction

With such a practical and flexible curriculum, no single textbook would do. Farm papers, bulletins and research reports filled the gap and the classes became even more practical and useful. An extensive agricultural library was developed in the agriculture classroom. At one time it contained over 4,000 titles and included up-to-date information on all types of agriculture in the area. As a result of using this library, almost daily, many students began ordering free farm bulletins and other periodicals to form their own agricultural libraries at home.

Judging Teams

Hilliard judging teams were among the winners in state and national contests for many years.

One of the first national awards came for winning the National Vocational Agriculture Dairy Judging Contest at Kansas City in 1929. Members of this team were Raymond Dellinger, Linn Hurd and Elmo Spring. Another early winner was Robert King who won a trophy for being the best poultry judge in Ohio in 1927. That same year a team won the state corn judging contest.

Hilliard won another first place in a national Judging Contest in 1951. A team composed of Dick Hensen, Dick Fisher, Fred Barrett and alternate, Paul Slyh, won first in general livestock judging, first in Ohio and then in the National Contest.

Other Hilliard teams were among the top 10 in the state almost every year. Banners and trophies were won for judging general livestock, dairy, meats, poultry, milk, agronomy, land and sheep and wool.

Hilliard teams were especially successful in dairy products judging and were first or second in the state contest each year from 1952 to 1957.

Agricultural Scholarships

Agriculture was no "snap" course at Hilliard and students worked hard in the classroom studying research reports and applying the information to their farming operations. Such academic efforts paid off on their farms and also prepared some for agricultural colleges.

Competitive scholarships awarded by the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University were awarded to nearly 30 graduates of the vo-ag department at Hilliard. These scholarships encouraged a number of vo-ag graduates to

continue their training in agriculture. Among the early recipients of these scholarships were Downing Converse, Melvin Wilkinson, Ernest Renner, William Tudor, Robert King, Raymond King and John Early.

In addition, many vo-ag graduates have received degrees from the College of Agriculture including Robert and Richard Rarey, Ned Woodruff, Jack Flickinger, Richard Kuhn and Curney Converse. Several have completed doctorates in agriculture including William Tudor, Downing Converse and John Early. A number also taught vocational agriculture including John Shier, Ernest Renner and Kenneth Seeley.

Farm Mechanics Important in the Program

Farm Shop was one of the most popular courses. Scheduled by sophomores, it included carpentry, tool fitting, plumbing, electricity, blacksmithing, and harness work. Students built many useful items for their farming operations such as hog houses, feeders, brooder houses, milk stools, and saw horses.

The first agriculture classroom and shop were in the elementary building but the shop was very small. Bolender told the superintendent his shop class would build a shop if the school would pay for the materials. The request was approved and work began in 1924 on a frame building about 26' x 32' which served as a shop for 25 years. This shop was built on a concrete foundation near the elementary school and later moved near the high school.

F.F.A. Trains for Rural Leadership

The Future Farmers of America was organized at state and national levels and provided much leadership to local chapters like Hilliard. Among the

first state-sponsored activities were contests in public speaking, parliamentary procedure and livestock judging. The State and American Farmer Degrees were established in 1929 and Hilliard students were among the first recipients.

Hilliard had an outstanding F.F.A. Chapter, winning many state and national awards. It was organized in 1928 when the state and national organization began. Prior to 1928, a local agriculture club had carried out many similar activities. These "pre-F.F.A." activities included parties, father-son banquets, pest hunts, and cooperative buying of farm supplies. Almost every vo-ag student belonged and took an active part in the agriculture club.

Hilliard F.F.A. was unique among the student clubs of the school. The agriculture teacher served as the club's advisor and he worked 12 months each year. The F.F.A. met one evening each month. During the school months, an additional daytime meeting each month was scheduled.

At least one activity was completed each month and over the years more and more activities were added. Fall activities were a Greenhand initiation, a purebred swine sale, a trap-shoot and a corn husking contest. In the winter, the F.F.A. held a parent-son banquet, a pest hunt and basketball games with neighboring chapters. Spring brought judging contests, public speaking contests and the state convention of F.F.A. During the summer a project tour, F.F.A. camp and county and state fairs were popular events.

The business meetings were conducted under strict rules of parliamentary procedure and much leadership was shown by the student officers. Teams

from Hilliard won Gold Awards in state contests in 24 different years, in parliamentary procedure. The F.F.A. was well-known for this skill and gave many demonstrations before school clubs and community groups.

Those who wish to learn more of the history of the F.F.A. will find the few remaining secretaries' and treasurers' books a useful resource. A 1945 secretary's book records chapter activities during World War II, and refers to war bonds, scrap drives and victory gardens.

Unfortunately, many of these books as well as other official records have been lost since the department closed in 1972.

The Thirties - The Impact of the Depression

This was a period when the country was coming out of a severe depression and although federal agricultural programs were helping farmers, agricultural income was low and there was a need for careful farm management. More efficient production and better management were the best answers to the individual farmers' economic problems. But, in spite of a discouraging outlook many farm boys still wanted to become farmers. It didn't take much cash to get started and farming was a family tradition.

Charles Flickinger succeeded E. O. Bolender as the teacher of agriculture in 1934 and continued until 1940. He had been the teacher at Bremen for four years and had substituted for six months while Bolender was completing his master's degree in 1930. Several important innovations were made in the Hilliard Vocational Agriculture program during Flickinger's tenure.

Changes in Farming Programs

During this period farming programs became larger as students sought to obtain the capital to get a start in farming. Potato projects were gradually phased out in favor of corn or soybeans. Home laying flocks and broilers continued to be important in farming programs.

Great strides were made in improving the quality of livestock on farms. Livestock became more important during this period of time and many purebred herds of Ayshires, Guernsey and Holsteins were established. Purebred herds of swine and beef cattle were also established by students.

The F.F.A. Expands Its Program

The Hilliard F.F.A. added several activities during this period, such as a joint parent/son F.F.A. banquet with the home economics students. The two groups took turns serving a banquet to each other's parents.

The F.F.A. developed a more complete, written program of activities and met once each month throughout the year. Added activities included: the Greenhand initiation; putting on radio programs; basketball games with neighboring chapters; assembly programs for the entire school; corn husking contests; and service to farmers through oiling harness and testing seed corn.

Some F.F.A. activities were closely related to the farming programs of students. One example was a project tour to members' home farms each summer. A cooperative was also formed within the chapter.

The feeding of livestock was not only discussed in class, but after having selected desirable rations, arrangements were made through an F.F.A. cooperative to purchase several tons of mixed feed at a time through the Russell Grain Company. Other F.F.A. cooperative ventures included the purchase of spray materials, baby chicks, and fertilizers for the student farming programs.

Participation in both the state fair and the Franklin County Fair increased during this period and a number of outstanding F.F.A. exhibitors collected ribbons and trophies. The Bidwells, Jack Elliott Ray Dellinger, Harold Hurt and Elmo Spring were some of the students of that period who had champions at the State Junior Fair. During this period, Ernest Renner was an F.F.A. state officer and Robert Rarey won the regional public speaking contest.

Community Support

Many organizations and individuals supported the vocational agriculture program in one way or another. The Russell Grain Company sold home-mixed livestock rations at cost through an F.F.A. cooperative. Hybrid seed corn was provided at reduced prices for student projects by Clark Van Schoick. Lumber for shop projects was provided at a discount by the lumber company. C. W. Latham donated his services as auctioneer at the young farmers' swine sales. The Merchants and Farmers Bank soon came to recognize the value of the department in improving the income of farmers in the area and actively encouraged farmers to enroll in adult classes in farm management. To encourage better record keeping the bank provided free form account books to all who would keep them and who were enrolled in hgih school or out-of-school classes. C. H. O'Brien, the cashier of the bank, was a frequent speaker at agriculture classes. He helped many students establish their credit through loans to buy livestock and farm supplies.

Among the community organizations supporting the vocational agriculture program were Alton and later Hilliard Grange. The F.F.A. Chapter put on many programs for these Granges. The Farm Bureau Councils and the Landmark cooperative at Hilliard also were active supporters of the program.

Hilliard was fast becoming one of the outstanding F.F.A. chapters in the state and three or four students each year were awarded the state farmer degree. A total of 72 State Farmers were named from Hilliard. A complete listing is included on appendix pages 13-14. William Tudor and Elmo Spring were the first State Farmers in 1929, and the last group in 1959 included Eddie Goldhart, James Huggett and Paul Pence, III.

Elmo Spring was the first American Farmer at Hilliard in 1930 followed by Melvin Rings in 1935. Additional American Farmers through the years included Kermit Grener in 1937, Richard Kuhn in 1937, Paul Pence, Jr., in 1939, Donald Rings 1939, Jay Liggett in 1948, Clarence Kaiser, Jr. in 1948, Louis Huffman in 1959 and Paul Pence, III in 1961.

A number of Hilliard students served as state officers in the Ohio F.F.A. Association, beginning with Raymond Dellinger, who was the first secretary of the state organization. Additional state officers included Ernest Renner in 1931, Kermit Grener in 1937, Austin White in 1955, Robert Rarey in 1939, Wayne Becker in 1946, Walter Hoffman in 1949, Louis Huffman in 1952 and Paul Pence, III in 1959.

Young Men's Farming Club Organized

An important event occurred in 1937 when the Hilliard Young Men's Farming Club was organized. This later became the Hilliard Young Farmer's Association. The depression had resulted in many young men staying on farms and Young Men's Farming clubs were springing up all over Ohio. The Hilliard club continued for many years and offered a continuation of some F.F.A. activities and fellowship as well as an opportunity to study advanced farming methods through a series of evening meetings during the winter months. An important aspect of this organization was that it focused the attention of many young men on how they might get their start in farming. In 1962 the organization changed its name to the Hilliard Young Farmers Association.

An outstanding group of young men became the nucleus of this group. Many of them who were graduates of the Vocational Agriculture Department and a number of them who had graduated from the College of Agriculture. After a

few years as Young Farmer members, many became members of the Adult Farmer classes. In this way many a boy spent four years in high school vo-ag classes, five years as a Young Farmer Association Member and perhaps an additional ten years in the Adult Farmer class.

Wives Join the Adult Farmer Program

The adult farmer class continued to enroll about 30 farmers in the area. Regular meetings were held during the winter months. A special emphasis was placed upon farm management in these meetings and as a result many farmers kept their own business records. During this period, as many as 25 farm account keepers would gather in the agricultural room during the winter months with Guy Miller from the Agricultural Extension Service who helped them summarize their records. Miss Elliott, the teacher of vocational home economics, was interested in adult education, and organized classes for women. This resulted in a number of cooperative programs involving the two groups. Wives were also included in some adult farmer classes. Special sessions on home beautification and poultry improvements were designed especially for the women.

Student Teachers At Hilliard

Many O.S.U. students in agricultural education and home economics education took their student teaching at Hilliard during this period. This effort would continue throughout the history of the department and contribute directly to the preparation of many future teachers of agriculture and home economics. For many years 12 student teachers of agriculture practiced at Hilliard each year. Over the entire period it is estimated that some 300 student teachers were at Hilliard learning to become teachers of vocational agriculture.

New Facilities

In 1934, the department had been moved from the elementary school to the basement of the high school, now the Hilliard Junior High School. In 1938, an addition to the school had been completed which permitted the Vocational Agriculture Department to move into the best facilities afforded any place in the state. A basement classroom, 30' x 36', was made available as well as a shop of about 36' x 40'. Additional rooms included a milk testing room and a conference room. These rooms are now used by the Music Department.

The "outside" shop building was also moved adjacent to the new addition and it was used for part of the farm machinery instruction as well as for some forge and metal work. All in all, the department, at this time, had one of the best vocational agriculture facilities in the state.

The Forties - Helping in the War Years

By 1940, the threat of war was apparent at Hilliard. Already some young men who were members of the National Guard were in training for what would become Ohio's famous 37th Division, one of the first to fight in the South Pacific.

Few changes had taken place in the village by 1940. The post office in William Jenkins' grocery store was a community center. F. H. McMillen, a former vo-ag teacher ran a good hardware which supplied the needs of surrounding farmers. Arch Alder, who ran the Chevrolet agency, was the most colorful character in town and the bench in front of his gas station was an afternoon meeting place for a group of regulars which included Johnny Wheeler, the butt of many a joke.

The needs of farmers were further met by a lumber yard run by Daize Chandler and by the well-equipped grain elevator operated by Bliss Russell and Sons. Clark Van Schoick was a pioneer producer of hybrid seed corn and he had a seed grading and processing plant in operation.

The village was still populated by only about 650 people, many of whom were retired farmers. Dr. J. W. Reason was the family doctor and a succassion of Methodist Ministers served the church at the corner of Main and Norwich, including Rev. Floyd Rowe and Rev. A. F. Noethlic.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Station was now largely a freight operation with only one or two passenger trains stopping each day. Paul Van Culin was the railroad agent. In 1945, a bus line was making regular runs to Columbus.

Free outdoor movies were a feature of most spring and summer Saturday nights. High school basketball drew good crowds and football was first played by Hilliard teams in front of the new grandstand at the County Fairgrounds.

The Norwich Township Schools were growing and were recognized as one of the best rural schools in the area. Two railroads which traversed the district provided a big help in taxes and the district regularly supported tax levies and bond issues as needed.

In addition to the standard college preparatory and general curriculum the school offered a four program of industrial arts, directed by V. F. Patterson. A four-year business course was taught by Mary Cornell and vocational education courses were available in home economics and in agriculture.

The high school faculty consisted of twelve persons, half of whom had been in the school for 20 years or more. It was an outstanding faculty which maintained a cooperative and friendly relationship until its ranks were decimated during World War II. Many temporary teachers were employed during the war years -- often for less than a full year. The vo-ag program was well-accepted by other teachers and the FFA assisted in many school events such as basketball games, school equipment repair, and even operating the audio-visual program.

Vocational Agriculture had been a part of the school curriculum for nearly a quarter of a century when Ralph Woodin came to Hilliard to teach vocational agriculture in 1940 and continued until 1948 when he joined

the Department of Agricultural Education at The Ohio State University. After nine years of teaching experience in Delaware, Medina and Wayne Counties, he looked forward to the challenge of teaching at Hilliard for it was considered one of the best programs in the state and its new classroom and shop were the envy of most teachers.

The enrollment in 1940 consisted of 42 high school students, 22 young farmers and 18 adult farmers. Most of these students came from fulltime farmers and the goal of the program was to assist all students to enter and make progress in farming. Students who lacked a farm background were discouraged from enrolling and no girls were in the program nor had been up to this time.

Agriculture in the area was changing faster than in years. Prices had improved since the depths of the depression; tractors had largely displaced horses; bigger and better machinery was becoming available and fertilizer was used by a majority of farmers. An 80 to 120 acre family-owned farm supported the average farm family, whose principal sales were from wheat, soybeans, milk and hogs. A well-managed farm returned a modest income, but few luxuries.

Farming Programs Expand

The increasing demand for food for the war effort encouraged students to expand their farming operations. Freshman boys during their first year began with a crop and livestock project as a rule. For example, Jay Liggett, a freshman living on his parents' 160 acre farm had a six-acre corn project, one purebred Duroc sow and litter, dairy records on 12 cows and did poultry culling on a flock of 50 laying hens.

Such programs expanded each year and by the time a student was a senior, he would be likely to have investments of several hundred dollars in crops and livestock. James Pence, who was a senior in 1943, had a farming program which included 20 acres of corn, 18 acres of soybeans, 100 chicks, a laying flock of 200 hens. He kept records on his dairy herds of 10 cows, kept a farm account and also had a victory garden. The official report shows that James' labor income from his projects totaled almost $3,000. He was named a State Farmer that year.

The project report made to the State Department of Education in 1944 showed that among the most popular crop projects were 24 corn projects, 5 victory gardens and 8 soybean projects. The most popular livestock projects included 31 sows and litters, 5 poultry flocks, 9 chick projects, 12 dairy projects and 2 sheep projects.

Pages 1-5 in the appendix shows a report of farm projects for 1929 as well as similar reports for 1943-44. These were the only reports found. The increase in the size and volume of the student farming operations is evident when these two reports are compared.

Many of the students developed outstanding purebreed livestock herds, particularly in dairy and swine. The outstanding show ring winner was Clarence Kaiser, Jr., whose Holstein cow, Josephine, was champion of the open classes at the Ohio State Fair in 1946. This is the only time that an FFA winner ever won the open class at the Ohio State Fair. Gerald Walker also showed several champion Holsteins at the County Fair.

A number of outstanding purebred swine herds were also established by students including Jay Liggett, Ronald Holpert, Charles Link and Keith Emmalhainz.

Hilliard FFA Aids War Effort

The FFA continued many of its activities during the war years. Although many students went directly into the service upon graduation, they enrolled in agriculture while in high school.

The FFA program included some of the concerns of the day in that one project called for chapter members to write letters to servicemen in all parts of the world and scrap drives were conducted to gather badly needed metal. The chapter members volunteered to help farmers get in their corn harvest in 1944 when bad fall weather made harvesting difficult.

Appendix pages 6-8 are from the F.F.A. Secretary's Record Book for 1942-43. The monthly program shows the variety of activities carried out by these students at that time.

The chapter benefited from the leadership of some outstanding officers during this period. One result of their efforts was that Hilliard was one of 16 chapters in the nation to receive a silver rating in the National Chapter Contest in 1946. Hilliard was the only chapter from Ohio so recognized. David Horst was the F.F.A. President. The chapter also received a gold award in the State Chapter Contest during 20 of the 23 years for it entered this contest.

The Young Farmers Association met regularly and developed an outstanding program during the war years. Young farmers with sizable farming operations were encouraged to produce food rather than enter the service if they could do so and they had an efficient operation. Night classes were attended by an

average of 15-20 young men for weekly sessions during the winter months. The group met monthly throughout the year. Some of their outside activities included a purebred swine sale in cooperation with the FFA, a summer trip to outstanding farms in Ohio and assisting at an expanded Franklin County Fair.

Adult Farmer Program Expands

Throughout the war years, the adult farmer class continued to meet. This group included a nucleus of farmers who had begun such classes with E. O. Bolender. Farm management and farm accounting was a central part of these meetings and much attention was given to the agricultural forecast each year.

To reach a larger number of farmers, the department instituted a special course in "Food Production War Training," and in "Farm Machinery Repair" to help in the war emergency. Such courses were held in Galloway, in New Rome, in the farm shop at Hilliard and at the Shoemaker Implement Company in Hilliard. Instructors included Harold Hiland, Melvin Wilkinson, Carl Shoemaker. Hundreds of pieces of machinery were repaired and overhauled in these courses and made ready for another crop year. In 1945, a total of six adult classes including the YFA and adult farmer class enrolled over 150 farmers in the community in this attempt to aid in the war effort.

County-Wide Organizations

Another accomplishment during this period was the development of farm organizations on a county-wide basis for the benefits of farmers. The six vocational agriculture departments in the county cooperated with the Agricultural

Extension Agent, Jesse Whonsettler, in organizing the Franklin County Dairy Service Cooperative and the Franklin County Soil Conservation District. A County Junior Fair Board was also organized and resulted in a stronger County FFA and 4H fair exhibit.

The War Ends

Two special days stand out, in terms of their emotional impact, during the war years at Hilliard High School. One was VE Day and on this day at about 11:00 a.m. the entire high school was called to an assembly in the auditorium to listen to a radio announcement that Germany had signed an armistice and that the war was over. Brief remarks were made by Mr. Hartsook regarding the sacrifices that every family had made to the war effort. There was hardly a dry eye in the assembly as this program was concluded.

VJ Day fell on the closing day of the Franklin County Fair. It seemed that the entire city of Columbus wanted to celebrate and that they all came to the Franklin County Fair on that Friday in August. It was a good-natured crowd who were thankful that the war had finally come to an end.

Farm Veterans' Classes

Many alumni of the FFA chapter served in all parts of the world during World War II. Two members who gave their lives included Robert Van Schoick and Robert Seeds.

During World War II most high school graduates entered the Armed Forces immediately. They were much interested in hearing from home and the FFA chapter had an organized program of letter-writing to them. One such letter is shown on appendix page 9.

After the war the veterans returned to their homes and many came to Young Farmer classes. Under the "G.I. Bill" veterans of World War II were entitled to enroll in special classes to prepare them for new careers. One of these careers was farming and a class for G.I. farm veterans was taught in the Hilliard Vo-Ag Department from 1946 to 1950. Ernest Renner, a graduate of the vo-ag program and the College of Agriculture at O.S.U., was the instructor. Renner was a fortunate choice for he knew the community and was an agricultural expert. He regularly visited veterans on their farms and taught weekly evening classes in the agricultural classroom. This program was conducted by the vocational agriculture teachers at Hilliard and by E. O. Bolender, then a district supervisor.

Typical concerns of the vo-ag graduate as he served in the Armed Forces are expressed in this letter which Donald Bidwell wrote his agriculture teacher, Ralph Woodin, from Paris, France, in April of 1945. The G.I. Agricultural training program went a long way to help young men like Donald to find his place in the world when he returned from the service. Bidwell wrote as follows:

"Naturally it is our desire to come home after this war and make good. I will always have a desire for agriculture. I have been on a farm all my life and practically all my savings are in a herd of purebred Ayrshires. Due to my health I may have to choose something other than farming. Many times I feel that field work with the Extension Department or with a breed association would be one way to keep up with my deep interest in dairy cattle."

Twenty-five were enrolled for the farm veterans class. The students were from the Northwest section of Franklin County. Unfortunately the records of this class were lost. A partial list of members is given on appendix page 12 and is based on the recollections of Ernest Renner and selected members of the class.

This program was important to Hilliard for it helped to financially establish some returning veterans in farming as well as to update their agricultural knowledge. Several of this group also continued their agricultural education at the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University.

A New Teacher

Beginning August 1, 1948, through June 30, 1950, Austin E. Ritchie was the teacher of Vocational Agriculture at Hilliard High School. He came to Hilliard from Gibsonburg Exempted Village High School where he had taught the previous year and a half. Ritchie was a veteran of World War II, and the first vocational agriculture teacher at Hilliard who had served in the armed services.

During this period of time he continued the emphasis on farm crops, agricultural mechanization and farm management in the high school, young farmer and adult farmer classes. The enrollments of each of the classes were approximately the same as during the period when Ralph J. Woodin was the teacher of vocational agriculture.

F.F.A. Program Expands

The Future Farmers of America continued to be a strong organization among the chapters in Ohio. Leadership as well as subject matter was stressed. Students participated in chapter procedure contests (parliamentary procedure) winning gold each year. They also participated in the FFA secretaries and treasurers contests, general livestock judging, dairy cattle judging, meat judging and agricultural mechanics state wide activities. The general

livestock judging team placed fourth in the state. The members of the team were Richard Hansen, Fred Barrett, Richard Fisher, and the alternate, Paul Slyh. The following year, under Leon Boucher, they placed first in the general livestock judging contest.

During this period there were several groups of visiting foreign students who They visited farms and meetings of the FFA, young and adult farmer groups. On several occasions dinners were prepared and served in the school by the girls in home economics under the direction of Mary Kohler, the teacher of vocational home economics.

The young farmer group, in addition to their regular weekly winter subject matter and monthly meetings, planned and conducted social activities such as tours and picnics for the young farmer members and their wives and families.

The purebred swine sale and the FFA chapter Queen Contest were continuing highlights. Participation in the Franklin County and Ohio State Fairs by the students in vocational agriculture resulted in their winning a number of trophies and awards.

Vo-Ag Teachers Prepared

During this two-year period, twenty-four students studying agricultural education at The Ohio State University took their student teaching in the department. All twenty-four of the student teachers became teachers of vocational agriculture upon graduation from college. A new duty of Austin Ritchie became that of supervising, visiting and assisting three or four beginning teachers of vocational agriculture each year.

Production Agriculture was the major thrust with practical experience provided by livestock and crop projects conducted by each of the students: the teaching program premised the needs of the students according to the projects they selected.

Ritchie left as the teacher of vocational agriculture at Hilliard High School in June, 1950, to become a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Education, College of Agriculture and Home Economics at The Ohio State University. He continued in the Department until 1957 when he became assistant dean in the College Office where he is currently serving.

Adjusting to a Population Explosion in the Fifties

The fifties were also a period of considerable change in the Hilliard community and the school and the vocational agriculture program.

The town grew rapidly during this period and its population increased almost tenfold. At the same time, the size of the school increased, becoming the Scioto-Darby School District. The high school faculty grew from 15 to 45. Fred Daniel, who was superintendent during this period, was interested in vocational education and other vocational programs in addition to agriculture and home economics were added. The school district was also expanded to take in all of Brown Township and portions of Washington and Prairie Townships.

Leon Boucher was the teacher of vocational agriculture from 1950-59, at which time he joined the Department of Agriculture Education at The Ohio State University. Leon had a successful career as the teacher at Green Springs before coming to Hilliard. Boucher taught at Hilliard until 1960 when he became a professor of Agricultural Education at The Ohio State University. Under his guidance a number of desirable features were added to the program. It was during this period that important adjustments to the program became necessary because of the rapid community change that was taking place.

Changes in Farming

National events continued to shape the program at Hilliard during this period. The Korean War took many graduates at a time they would have preferred to have started into farming. Farm surpluses became burdensome and prices were low. Larger farm machinery came into use and its cost required expending crop acreages. Larger farms were operated and more land was leased.

The 50's were a time of expansion of farming programs as students had opportunities to lease additional land and to use larger plows, tractors and combines.

From 1952-56 the increasing enrollment in the high school did not reflect in an increase in vocational agriculture but enrollment remained about steady for high school classes. There were increases, however, in the number of adult and young farmers who were enrolled in these classes. The development of a departmental advisory committee, under the chairmanship of Walter Bluck, gave another boost to the program during this period of time.

New FFA Achievements

The Hilliard chapter had become well-known among FFA chapters in the state for its judging teams, its prize-winning livestock and general FFA activities. The chapter had a gold rating in the State Chapter Contest for 20 years. Fifty-five students had been awarded the state farmer degree--more than any other school in the state at that time. Twenty-five FFA members had won scholarships to the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University. Each year at the FFA Convention, the Hilliard chapter was recognized for its program and for awards in various areas.

Two outstanding FFA members during this period were Louis Hoffman and Paul Pence. Louis received his American Farmer Degree in 1953 and was a state officer subsequently. Paul Pence was a state officer in 1959-60 and also was the recipient of the American Farmer Degree.

Judging Teams Win

In 1951, Hilliard won the championship for general livestock judging in the state contest and they also won the Alpha Gamma Rho trophy at the Little International at Ohio State. Members of this team were Richard Hansen, Dick Fisher, Fred Barrett, and the alternate was Paul Slyh.

In 1955, Hilliard was again recognized for excellence in the national chapter contest and received a bronze award. Hilliard also had outstanding milk and dairy products teams during the 50's. During a five-year period, the chapter had either a first or second in dairy products in this state contest.

The FFA continued to add new activities in keeping with the times. Each year a chapter queen was elected. At one time, the chapter had regular television programs on a Columbus station. Each year a corn picker safety campaign was conducted for farmers in the community. Wrestling teams from the FFA competed with other FFA wrestlers. A fishing trip to Lake Erie each year was organized.

One of the memorable events of the 50's was the Silver Anniversary FFA banquet in 1959 which honored E. O. Bolender as one of the first teachers in the program.

Foreign Visitors

This was also a period of world cooperation and the vocational agriculture department was the host of many foreign visitors who came from Japan, Iraq, Iran, India and Morocco among other nations to observe the work

in the school and on the farms of this community. Though undocumented, it is quite likely that education and training for farmers in many countries has been influenced by these casual, but firsthand contacts with vocational agriculture at Hilliard and other communities in the U.S.

Young Farmer Program Expands

The program of the young farmer associati n was broadened and the association participated each year in the state young farmer conference. Ted Kaltenbach was president both of the Hilliard association and of the state Young Farmer Association. Eugene Fisher was also a state Y.F.A. officer.

A New Classroom and Shop

Another help to the program came in the form of new facilities. A separate building was built at the rear of the present junior high school which provided for a well-equipped vocational agriculture classroom and a larger shop. This facility was shared with the industrial arts department and gave opportunity for an expanded program of agricultural mechanics instruction.

The 1960's - The Effect of Community Change

Wayne Schroeder came to Hilliard as a vo-ag teacher in 1960 and stayed only one year. His past experiences at Pandora helped him to effectively guide a program in transition. Schroeder was interested in instructional education, went to India and eventually became director of the project of the College of Education at O.S.U. at New Delhi.

Community and school trends that were rooted in the 1950's heightened their impact during the sixties. At the base was population growth, which was effecting other changes in the Hilliard area. Housing for the town's residents was outstripping the services. Out in the country, yesterday's cornfield became today's housing development. The new houses were bringing in new faces. The displacement of farm land was causing farmers to relocate to other less suburban communities. Others who remained were on a developer's waiting list. Increasingly Hilliard was becoming a community of strangers, and the quiet rural town atmosphere was disrupted.

This traditional rural base that had served and supported vocational agriculture so well in the past was now changing. Preparation for full-time farming was less and less a suitable objective for rural youths. Many students were from farms that no longer supported a fulltime person, and father-son ties were also being subjected to change.

More Vocational Offerings

Within a rapidly growing high school a greater variety of vocational courses and youth programs was provided. Vocational agriculture and the FFA was now one of several options for boys who wanted a practical education element in their high school education.

Vocational agriculture continued to flourish during this period with a relatively stable enrollment of high school students. The curriculum as well as the out-of-school applications by students increasingly reflected a blend of established patterns continued and new ones being tried out.

Horticulture Is Added

One major change in the program was the establishment of a horticulture program in 1963. This program involved greenhouse ornamental and vegetable crop production and permitted non-farm students to attain agricultural training. Vocational agriculture juniors and seniors sharpened their masonry, carpentry and glazing skills by erecting a 10' x 30' glass greenhouse facing Main Street near the old elementary school. As the program evolved, a small plastic greenhouse and two cold frames were also erected. The first class grew cut flowers, trellis cucumbers and tomatoes and bedding plants for the spring sale.

The horticulture program at Hilliard was one of the first in the state and was a real pioneering effort. It was unique in that the students did most of the work of building their own facilities and in terms of a new student organization which was set up which was somewhat parallel with the FFA chapter, but was designed specifically for students in vocational horticulture.

Student Teaching in Horticulture

Many of the experiences and ideas which were developed at Hilliard had a profound influence on horticulture programs in other parts of the state as student teachers observed the program and as other teachers learned of Hilliard's experience with vocational horticulture.

The onset of the horticulture program also caused the first enrollment of girls in the vocational agriculture program. Culminating this first year of vocational horticulture, a team of two girls and one boy placed second in the state horticulture contest.

The Future Farmers made headlines in parliamentary procedure contests and achievement of State Farmer degrees. As a result of having a first place booth at the Ohio State Fair, several members attended the National FFA Convention at Kansas City, Missouri in 1962.

Adult Classes Remained Active

Adult and Young Farmer programs continued with the Young Farmers making the greatest contributions. Among their notable accomplishments were the establishment of a community service food stand at the Franklin County Fair livestock barns, and Louis Huffman's achievement of Outstanding Young Farmer of Ohio in 1963. He was highlighted in the film "The Businessman Farmer" and was honored at a reception at the Deshler Hilton in Columbus. The Young Farmer instructional program emphasized crops management and mechanization. High land values were forcing young farmers to concentrate on cash grain farming on leased land.

Eight Teachers in Seven Years

From 1965 to 1972 eight different teachers taught in the department. This was a period of an extreme shortage of qualified teachers. Many of those qualified entered the Vietnam Conflict. Meantime the program became largely horticultural in nature, yet the greenhouse facilities were too limited to provide needed experience.

Several teachers of agriculture were associated with the Hilliard Vocational Agriculture program during the sixties and early seventies. Wayne Schroder, who had previously taught at Pandora-Gilbon Schools for eight years, succeeded Leon Boucher in 1959 for one year. He was followed by Keith Brum who taught at Hilliard until 1964, when he joined the Geigey Chemical Company. Keith's work with vocational horticulture made a lasting impact on the program.

Mr. Brum was the last teacher of vocational agriculture to have more than two years tenure until the department was closed at the end of the 1972-73 school year. Teachers who taught after 1964 were not asked to contribute to the history because of their short tenure.

Teachers who served the department from 1965 to 1972 included Roger Gwin, Bernard Nirode, Michael Ward, Rodney Kissell, David Hoffman, Oliver Tucker and John Aldrich.

In Retrospect

The questions might be raised, "why was this program discontinued after 50 years of notable achievement."

There are many answers to this question and probably there was not one single cause. Certainly the increase in population of the village from 600 to over 6,000 in the ten-year period placed the agricultural sector of the community very much in the minority.

Other vocational education programs were instituted in the school and seemed more appropriate to the changing student population. Another factor was certainly the shortage of teachers and the difficulty of getting the teachers to stay long enough to make an impression on the program. A review of this history certainly shows that those teachers who spent three years or more in the program generally had a very desirable effect on its direction.

Still another development was the inclusion of the Scioto-Darby School District in the area served by the Central Ohio Joint Vocational School. This school also offers an expanded agricultural program and it was an economical way of meeting the needs of those students who were interested in an agricultural career.

Perhaps another reason for the loss of this department at a time when other vocational agriculture departments in the county continued to grow stronger was that the agricultural community did not realize how much their support was needed to keep the program going.

What Were The Outcomes?

In the course of developing this history many persons commented to the writer on what vocational agriculture had meant to them. To them these were the outcomes of this educational program. For some it was finding a career in agriculture; for others it was being recognized in the FFA. The extent to which the lives of individuals and the quality of life of the community were improved is a real measure of the impact of this program.

Looking back over 53 years of vocational agriculture at Hilliard the outcomes of the program seem to include the following:

1. Many young men found a deep and enduring interest in agriculture which led them to rewarding careers in this field.

2. Some of the brightest and best of the young people stayed in the community, aiding and developing its growth.

3. The agriculture of the area became more efficient and more productive as a result of better farming practiced by those enrolled.

4. Community organizations profited by the leadership developed by former FFA members who took their places in a changing social scene.

5. A closer bond was developed between the school and the agricultural community through the enrolmment of whole families in the program and through the farm visits of the teachers.

6. A new opportunity for accomplishment and self-realization was afforded. A new pride in accomplishment was evident in the students.

7. More students stayed in school longer. For some students agriculture made other school subjects meaningful.

8. More students went to college, particularly in agriculture.

Probably many of these outcomes were more important in earlier years than today. At any rate it can be concluded that vocational agriculture at Hilliard served an important place in the lives of over a thousand persons who were enrolled over a dynamic and changing 53-year period.

APPENDIX

School Norwich Twp County Franklin District 9

Distribution of Projects and Other Supervised Practice

Based on Preliminary Report of Individual Farming Programs for the School Year 1943 19 44

PROJECT OR OTHER SUPERVISED PRACTICE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS				
	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total
	15	10	11	6	42
NUMBER OF PROJECTS OR UNITS OF OTHER SUPERVISED PRACTICE					
Corn	6	4	8	6	24
Potatoes	1	0	0	0	1
Truck Crops (not home garden)	0	4	0	1	5
Other Crops (specify)	1	1	4	2	8
	1	1	1	1	4
Sow and Litter	10	6	10	5	31
Poultry Flock Management	1	2	1	1	5
Chicks for Pullet Production	3	1	3	1	8
Chicks for Meat Production Only	1	0	0	0	1
Dairy Herd Management	0	3	2	1	6
Dairy Calf or Heifer	3	3	0	0	6
Sheep Flock Management	2	0	0	0	2
Feeder Pigs, Lambs or Calves (specify)	0	0	0	0	0
Other Livestock (specify)	1	0	1	1	3
Total Number of Projects	29	25	30	19	103
Farm Accounts	0	1	1	3	5
Dairy Herd Records	5	5	7	1	18
Poultry Flock Records	0	0	1	1	2
Other Supervised Practice in Livestock Excluding Dairy Herd and Poultry Flock Records	13	2	1	1	17
Other Supervised Practice in Crops or Soils	11	11	24	11	57
Other Supervised Practice in Agricultural Engineering	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	1	0	0	1
Total Number of Units of Other Supervised Practice	29	19	34	17	100

(SEE OTHER SIDE)

School Norwich Twp. County Iosco District 9

Summary of Report of Individual Farming Programs of All-Day Students in Vocational Agriculture

For the School Year 19 43 -19 44

PART I. PRELIMINARY REPORT

	Year in High School 1	2	3	4	Total for All Years
1. Number of students enrolled	15	10	11	6	42
2. Number of students enrolled for the first time in vocational agriculture	15	3	3	0	21
3. Number of students eligible to elect continuation projects (Subtract Item 2 from Item 1)	******	7	8	6	21
4. Number of students electing projects	15	10	11	6	42
5. Number of students electing continuation projects	******	7	8	6	21
6. Number of students electing other supervised practice only	0	0	0	0	0
7. Number of projects elected	29	25	30	19	103
8. Number of units of other supervised practice elected	29	19	34	17	100

9. Percentage of students electing continuation projects (Divide total of Item 5 by total of Item 3) 100 %

PART II. FINAL REPORT

	Year in High School 1	2	3	4	Total for All Years
1. Number of students enrolled in preliminary report above	15	10	11	6	42 ✓
2. Number of students enrolled since preliminary report	0	0	0	0	0
3. Total number of students enrolled (Add Item 1 and Item 2)	15	10	11	6	42
4. Number of students moving away without completing any supervised practice	0	0	0	0	0
5. Number of students dropping out of school without completing any supervised practice	0	0	1	1	3
6. Total deductions allowed in accounting for students in supervised practice. (Add Item 4 and Item 5)	1	0	1	1	3
7. Number of students to be accounted for in supervised practice (Subtract Item 6 from Item 3)	14	10	10	5	39
8. Number of students included in Item 7 enrolled for the first time in vocational agriculture	1	3	3	0	1
9. Number of students eligible to complete continuation projects (Subtract Item 8 from Item 7)	******	7	7	5	19
10. Number of students completing projects	14	10	10	5	39 ✓
11. Number of students completing other supervised practice only	0	0	0	0	0
12. Number of students completing some kind of supervised practice (Add Item 10 and Item 11)	14	10	10	5	39 ✓
13. Number of students completing continuation projects	******	7	7	4	18
14. Number of projects completed	30	23	23	11	86 ✓
15. Number of units of other supervised practice completed	25	19	28	15	86 ✓

16. Percentage of students completing some kind of supervised practice (Divide total of Item 12 by total of Item 7) 100 %

17. Percentage of students completing continuation projects (Divide total of Item 13 by total of Item 9) 94.8 %

18. Percentage of projects completed as elected. (After eliminating from consideration the programs of all students who are allowable deductions in accounting for supervised practice, (Item 6), divide the total number of projects completed as elected by the total number of projects elected. Use as the basis for calculation only those projects which were included in the preliminary report filed in the supervisor's office.) Record here the figures used in division: 86 divided by 110 78.8 %

Form 5.

(SEE OTHER SIDE)

STATE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1942-43

State President Richard Dawson Address Delaware

*State Vice President Carl Hall Address Republic, Seneca County

State Secretary Joe Dunlap Address Kenton

State Treasurer Carl Bowman Address Covington, Miami County

State Reporter Cletus Schmeising Address Minster

State Adviser _____ Address _____

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1942-43

President Louis Zelasko Vice President John Z. Clellan

Secretary Keith Emmelhainz Treasurer James Pence

Reporter John Becker Adviser Ralph J. Worden

†STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1942-43

Committee Conservation Committee Musical

Chm. Charles Eatherman Chm. James Pence
Edward Zassig James Horst
Jay Liggett Ralph Dunbar

Committee Cooperative Committee Loans

Chm. Harry Mathews Chm. Keith Emmelhainz
Maynard Gifford John Early
Richard Wolpert Albert Price

Committee Sports Committee Social

Chm. Jack Clellan Chm. Marlin Hurst
Fredrick Shumm Duane Stillings
Louis Kings Junior Emerick

*For the area or district in which the chapter is located.
†Chairmen of Standing Committees serving with the Chapter officers may well constitute the Chapter Executive Committee.

Hilliards Future Farmers of America

Program of Work by Months

1942-43

September

1. Start Scholarship Contest.
2. Make Movie.

October

1. Conduct a Purebred Swine Sale.
2. Adopt an annual budget.
3. Initiate Greenhands.
4. Secure F. F. A. jackets.
5. Hold local Corn Husking Contest.
6. Collect Dues.
7. Send officers to Officer's Training School.

November

1. Hold Pest Hunt.
2. Have F. F. A. and F. H. A. Party.
3. Give an Assembly Program.

December

1. Give County Future Farmer Initiation.
2. Enter P. C. A. Public Speaking Contest.

January

1. Serve for F. H. A. Banquet.
2. Conduct Farm Accounting Contest.
3. Give Radio Program.
4. Start Training Parlimentary Procedure Team.

Hilliards Future Farmers of America

Program of Work by Months
(Continued)

February

1. Exchange visit with West Jefferson F.F.A.
2. Put on a Grange Program.

March

1. Enter F.F.A. Public Speaking Contest.
2. Send 2 delegates to Leadership Contest.

April

1. Hold an F.F.A. and F.H.A. Party.
2. Hold a meeting on good Dress.
3. Help Landscape School Grounds.
4. Start F.F.A. Chick Project.
5. Elect officers for coming year.

May

1. Observe Rural Life Sunday.
2. Nominate State and American Farmers.
3. Have Seniors take Scholarship Test.

June

1. Enterteams in State Judging Teams.
2. Send 2 delegates to F.F.A. Convention

July

1. Photograph members projects.
2. Install new officers.

August

1. Exhibit at Franklin County Fair.
2. Arrange and conduct Project Tour
3. Send delegates to F.F.A. Camp.

Hilliards, Ohio
February 5, 1944

Dear Friend,

I'm taking this shortcut to catch up on my G. I. correspondence. Right now I owe about thirty-five letters. You fellows have certainly traveled. You include former vocational agriculture students, practice teachers, fellow teachers, classmates, Y.F.A. members and neighbors. There's Clarence Salzgaber, Panama former Hilliards Y.F.A. member. Howard L. Miller on the last lap of bombardier training at Hondo, Texas and Lt. Albert Addison, Ft. Riley, Texas are former practice teachers. S/Sgt. Wis Briggs was in North Africa when last heard from. Luther Miller must have seen action in the South Pacific with Ohio's 37th. These are only a few examples.

Thanks for your cards and letters, fellows. It's an inspiration to us back home to hear from you. I read most of them to the F.F.A. and Y.F.A. It makes us realize how much we have to be thankful for here and how much you men are sacrificing.

What kind of news do you want? Here are some items which come to mind. We have had the mildest, sunniest January in years. Farmer's week is presented by radio only this year. Ohio F.F.A. convention is at the Southern Hotel this year. No space available at O.S.U. which is crowded with A.S.T.P. units. Hilliards F.F.A. has about the same program as usual. The boys collected 8 tons of scrap this fall. Ed Fassig, Wilmer Tewell, Duane Stillings, Jay Liggett, Clarence Kaiser, Jim Leppert and Joe Lawn were made chapter farmers at a county initiation this week. Frank Rowe, the Minister's son will be our public speaking contestant. The parent-son banquet will be held in March. Y.F.A. officers this year are Lowell Noxon, president, David Horst, Vice President, John Shier, secretary, Howard Geyer, Treas. They held their tenth short course meeting last week. Attendance has been about 20. All of these fellows are in 2C. None except John Early have been called up in the last year. John is a 4F due to poor eyes. Yes, they still play rough basketball. Farm machinery is still hard to get. We have one farm machinery repair school in our outside shop. Another at Galloway. "Newt" Wilkinson and Harold Hyland are teaching them.

Fred Marti, Walter Bomeli and Warren Miller were practice teachers here this fall. There are none here this quarter. Two are at Westerville and two at Canal Winchester for the winter quarter. Of course there will be only a few 4F practice teachers from now on.

The high school faculty lost two teachers at Christmas time. Bud Kaiser's wife, Miss McCowan, came back. Coach Fahrenholz expects to take his physical during February. V. F. Patterson is doing a fine job as principal.

Mrs. Woodin asks me to say hello and good luck to all of you. She adds that she doesn't approve of this method of letter writing. Joan (asleep by this time) has probably grown up some since you've seen her. She's in the second grade. I'm finding the job of being a dad gets bigger every year. Some of these second grade spelling words are pretty tough for me.

Good luck to all of you. Write when you can. We are all looking forward to the time you can be back home. May it be soon.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Woodin
Teacher of Vocational Agriculture

November 9, 1944

To Farm Operators of Hilliards Community:

Re: Tractor and Farm Machinery Repair for 1945

Is your farm machinery and equipment ready for a busy season in 1945? Probably it needs more or less repair, adjustment and overhauling. If you want to do this repair work yourself, you may want to enroll in a farm machinery school.

Last year two of these schools were sponsored by the Norwich Township Board of Education. They were located at Galloway and at Hilliards. About 25 farmers enrolled at each school. Three meetings a week were held for five weeks. Harold Hiland and Melvin Wilkinson were instructors. Tractors, plows, disks, drills, corn planters and mowers were brought in by these farmers and repaired. No charges were made to farmers except for parts and materials used in reconditioning their machinery.

Will you furnish the information requested below if you are interested in repairing your farm equipment this year through such a course? Please use the enclosed envelope to return the information. As soon as arrangements are made for this year's courses, you wll be promptly notified.

Very truly yours,

Ralph J. Woodin
Teacher of Voc. Agriculture

A Partial List of Members of Adult and Young Farmers Classes at Hilliard - 1930-1972

Glen Anderson
Wayne Anderson
Keith Barrett
Stanley Barrett
John Becker
Donald Bidwell
Glenn Bidwell
Harold Bidwell
Lewis Bradley
David Breese
Charles Brush
Robert Brush
Tom Carr
Edward Converse
William Converse
George Cordosier
Russell Cramer
Edwin Datz
Ben Davis
Fred Dellinger
Raymond Dellinger
William Dever
Findlay DeWolfe
John Dexter
Harold Distelhorst
William Distelhorst
Wenzel Early
Leach Edwards
Don Elliott
Howard Elliott
Jack Elliott
Paul Elfrink
Harry Emmelhainz
William Emmelhainz
Grant Ervin
Arthur Fisher
Eugene Fisher
Herbert Fladt
Lester Fladt
Felix Fluck
Louis Fluck
James Geese
Howard Geyer
Harold Graumlich
Stanley Graumlich
Kermit Grener
Walter Grener
Harold Hart
Virgil Hart
Edwin Hauiesen
Chester Hennery
Ellis Hoffman
John Hoffman
Walter Hoffman
Richard Holt
Martin Horst
Harry Huggett
Grover Kaderly
Clarence Kaiser
Clarence Kaiser, Jr.
Lawrence Kaiser
Ted Kaltenbach
Eugene Kent
Raymond King
Robert King
Melvin Kreiger
Paul Krohn
Steve Kuhn
Richard Kuhn
William Kuhlwein
Clarence Latham
Max Latham
Carlton Liggett
Jay Liggett
Clyde Major
Bert Moore
Ed Moore
Charles Parker
Edward Parker
Howard Parker
Walter Parker
Paul H. Pence
Paul Pence, Jr.
Paul M. Pence
Lester Porter
Albert Price
Arthur Purdum
George Purdum
Donald Rarey
John Rarey
Donald Rings
Walter Rings
Griffin Roberts
Frank Robey
Jack Robey
William Schnug
William Schofield
Clarence Seeds
Calvin Shier
John Shier
Clifton Shonkwiler
Richard Shonkwiler
Fred Shrum
Harold Shultz
Kenneth Slyh
Paul Slyh
Manford Smith
Tom Smith
Ray Spangler
Charles Spring
Elmo Spring
Harry Spring
Kenneth Spring
Millard Stillings
Ira Thomas
Albert Tinapple
Clark Van Schoick
Howard Van Schoick
Ray Van Schoyck
William Van Schoyck
Kenneth Vaughn
Joe Voltz
Francis Walker
Kermit Walker
William Walker
L. D. Walcutt
Elmer Weber
Herman Weber
Jake Weber
Robert Weber
Austin White
Frank Wilcox
Melvin Wilkinson
Lewis Wolpert
Marion Wolpert
Paul Wolpert
Gaymon Wright
Philip Wright
Ernest Wuertz

Members of Farm Veterans Classes

Donald Bidwell
Joe Caudey
Carl Coffman
Robert Duhl
Charles Edward
Bill Erdy
Lester Fladt
Porter Forst
Bernard Geyer
James Hock
Raymond King
Carl Kreiger
Charles Lewis
Jim McCullough
Ted Nichols
Howard Parker
Albert Price
Melvin Rings
Clarence Salzgaber
Abe Sampson
Max Schmelmer
Harry Shoemaker
Howard Van Schoick
Lowell Van Schoick
Victor Shreck
Harold Shultz
Wayne Stamper
Donald Stumph
Raymond Toy
Raymond Troesch
Clyde Vaughn
Dean Walcutt
George Way
Charles Wright

Taught by Ernest Renner
A Graduate of the
Vocational Agriculture Department in 1930

State Recognition of Hilliard FFA Chapter

American Farmers

Name	Year
Elmo Spring	1930
Melvin Rings	1935
Kermit Grener	1937
Richard Kuhn	1937
Paul Pence	1939
Donald Rings	1939
Jay W. Liggett	1948
Clarence Kaiser	1948

Honorary American Farmers

E. O. Bolender	1961
Ralph J. Woodin	1973

State Officers

Name	Office	Year
Raymond Dellinger	Secretary	1929-30
Austin White	Reporter	1935-36
Kermit Grener	Treasurer	1936-37
Robert Rarey	Vice President	1938-39
Wayne Becker	Vice President	1946-47
Walter Hoffman	Vice President	1948-49
Louis Huffman	Exec. Committee	1952-53
Paul Pence	President	1959-60

National Chapter Contest

Year	Rating
1946	Silver
1953	Bronze

Ohio Chapter Contest

Hilliard entered this contest 23 years and received Gold or Superior Awards for all except three years.

Chapter Procedure Contest

Hilliard entered this contest 23 different years and received a Gold award in 14 of these 23 years.

State Farmers
Hilliard - 1929-1959

William Tudor	1929	John T. Clellan	1942
Elmo Spring	1929	William Schnug	1942
Ernest Renner	1930	David T. Horst	1942
Melvin Rings	1934	James Pence	1943
Paul Elfrink	1934	Louis Fluck	1943
Albert Woerner	1935	John Early	1943
Austin White	1935	Marlin Hurd	1944
Ned Woodruff	1936	Nathan Emrich, Jr.	1944
Richard Kuhn	1936	Keith Emmelhainz	1944
Kermit Grener	1936	Duane Stillings	1945
Carl Wolpert	1937	Louis Rings	1945
Robert Rarey	1937	Clarence Kaiser	1945
Harold Bidwell	1937	James Horst	1945
Donald Bidwell	1937	Paul Riddle	1946
Henry Wright	1938	Jay Liggett	1946
Lowell Weber	1938	Edward Fladt	1946
Donald Rings	1938	Wayne Becker	1946
Richard Rarey	1938	Philip Wright	1947
Paul Pence	1938	Godfrey Rings, Jr.	1947
Max Schmelmer	1939	Harry Emmelhainz	1947
Edward Parker	1939	Eugene Fisher	1948
Kenneth Bidwell	1939	David Geyer	1948
Robert Shier	1940	Walter E. Hoffman	1948
Melvin Distelhorst	1940	Charles Pence	1949

State Farmers
Hilliard - 1929-1959 (cont'd.)

Gerald R. Walker	1949	David Francis	1955
Fred C. Barrett	1950	Roy L. Hoffman	1956
Bernard Geyer	1950	Lee Holt	1956
Richard Hansen	1950	Gene Planck	1956
Eugene Nunamaker	1950	Dean Krieger	1957
Richard Fisher	1951	Bill Kuhlwein	1957
Louis Huffman	1952	Gary Dever	1958
George Miller	1952	Larry Hoffman	1958
Lionel Wilson	1953	Glen D. King	1958
John Durban	1954	Eddie Goldhart	1959
Charles Hart	1954	Jim Huggett	1959
George Wuertz	1954	Paul Pence, III	1959

Honorary State Farmers

M. D. Hartsook	1941
Ralph J. Woodin	1947
A. E. Ritchie	1952
Walter Bluck	1953
Leon Boucher	1954
Albert Gehres	1963